**Cultivation of lands along Indo-Pak Border**

1862. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are facing difficulties in cultivating their lands on the Indo-Pak borders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government for solving the problems of people living in International border areas of the country, particularly in Jammu region;

(d) whether Government propose to provide compensation for the loss suffered by such farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Farmers are facing difficulties in cultivating their lands along Indo-Pak border areas due to cross border shelling, laying of mines, occupation of land by army, erection of security fencing, restriction on movement of farmers and restriction on growing tall crops.

(c) to (e) Government has decided to pay crop compensation for occupation of lands during the preparatory stage of defensive preparations/ movement of Armed Forces in the Indo-Pak Border areas in connection with Operation Parakaram for Kharif Crop 2002 and subsequent crops at the rate of 50 per cent of gross estimated produce of the crop for lands which were cultivable and the crops could have been sown, but could not be sown due to occupation by Armed Forces. The lands which were not cultivable rental compensation would be admissible. An amount of Rupees 169,60,43,266/- has been sanctioned to the States of Punjab, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir for the crop compensation for the damages occurred to Rabi crop 2001-2002 and rental compensation for the same lands beyond Rabi crop 2001-2002.

In the Jammu Region, an earthen bund is being constructed ahead of the fence to shield the workers and farmers from shelling from across the border.